

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 178

By Gant

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the *Independent Appeal* of McNairy County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should specially recognize those media outlets that are dedicated to the preservation of our great democracy and the perpetuation of truth; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable outlet is the *Independent Appeal*, a McNairy County newspaper that ceased production in December 2022 after 120 years of devoted media service; and

WHEREAS, the oldest existing business in McNairy County, the *Independent Appeal* was family-owned and -operated by the Rail family for forty-three years; and

WHEREAS, from its inception, the *Independent Appeal* operated under the tenets of printing truthful news stories and moving the community in a positive direction; and

WHEREAS, having evolved with the years, the earliest pages of the *Independent Appeal* were pasted together and shot like a photo; as the years passed, computers were introduced in the 1980s and made production significantly easier and more accessible; and

WHEREAS, the *Independent Appeal*, which started without paying subscribers when it was purchased by the Rail family, grew to an all-time high of 7,000 papers in circulation; and

WHEREAS, Janet Rail, the most recent publisher of the *Independent Appeal* and daughter of the previous owner, purchased the publication from her father in 2000 and took over the business permanently in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Rail family, along with previous owners, made the *Independent Appeal* a vital part of McNairy County's business landscape and economy; and

WHEREAS, for more than twelve decades, the *Independent Appeal* provided superior publication and news services, and it is fitting that this iconic McNairy County business be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the *Independent Appeal* for 120 years of stellar service, extending our sincere gratitude for its dedication to McNairy County and its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appeal without House or Senate designation.